be forced to blush at any official act of Benson. Nor need the abolitionists felicitate themselves in advance upon the downfall of that little State, to them such an eye-sore.

James Benson, the father of the President elect, emigrated to Liberia in 1822. He was a free man, raised in Dorchester County, where many of the people now well remember him as "Steady James." We believe he resided in Baltimore some few years before he emigrated;—at any rate he was well known to the colored people here. He, together with his family, a wife and four or five children, formed a part of the small Expedition of the Brig Strong, which sailed from Baltimore in May, 1822, having on board the Rev. Jehudi Ashman, afterwards so famous as the Governor of Liberia. This being the third vessel that ever took emigrants to Liberia, succeeding only the Elizabeth and Nautilus. The trials and hardships which those early settlers of Cape Messurado endured, by pestilence, famine, battle and sudden death, are almost unparalleled. Benson was distinguished through these trying times for his coolness and bravery in battle, and patience under suffering and affliction. He lost his wife and one or two of his children, and, if we mistake not, Stephen, then a lad of six years, was captured among several other children, and kept some weeks by the natives. At any rate, his African baptism was a severe one, and of fire instead of water.

We found James Benson in 1831 in Monrovia, a man universally respected. He was one of the pioneers in the settlement of Bassa in 1832, and commenced mercantile operations there. When the plan of effecting a Maryland settlement at Cape Palmas went into operation in 1834, Mr. Benson being a Marylander, joined the expedition and built the first house at Cape Palmas. He, however, afterwards concluded to return to Bassa, and there continued till his death, distinguished for his probity and integrity.

With the son, Stephen A. Benson, we are mainly acquainted through a business correspondence of some ten or twelve years. His letters evince about the same literary acquirements as ordinary commercial correspondence, indicating remarkable good sense and extreme fairness and candor. Those who know him well, and they are many,—Liberians and foreigners of character and distinction,—speak of him as a gentleman in manners, of pleasing address, extremely modest and unassuming, of unimpeachable moral character, and sterling good sense and sound judgment. Such a man, educated entirely in Liberia, having no thought or ambition beyond its true welfare and prosperity, cannot fail to make a good Ruler thereof. We bid him God speed!

REV. WM. H. BISHOF.—We seldom have occasion to say a word about colored ministers. The really gifted and most elevated specimens of our people are less largely represented among this class in our country at present than formerly. A few years ago we could point with complacency to Samuel R. Ward, Henry Highland Garnet, Alexander Crummel, Hosea Easton, and others, but death and Colonization have removed those great men from amongst us, and we are left to struggle on without their immediate help. Death, Liberia and Jamaica, have made sad havoc amongst us in this respect, but never despair.

We find the foregoing paragraph in "Frederick Douglass' paper," an editorial, by Douglass himself, most likely. Did it not occur to him while penning this article, that, the decision of such men, to leave their old

connexions, was based on something besides mere impulse. Were they not as patriotic, as devoted to the welfare of their race and to humanity, as himself? Can he doubt but they reflected, deliberated-long, earnestly and prayerfully, upon the course they should pursue? And can he doubt but they honestly came to the conclusion that there were fields of labor open to them in which they could effect absolute, unmixed good? Can he doubt but they left the Abolition ranks and connexion from a conviction, that the course pursued by them was productive of evident, absolute, unequivocal evil to the great mass of their own color, and doubtful, questionable good to few? We regret that but one of the list has found his way to Liberia. Would they were all there-but above all, the giant Ward. From what we have heard of this man, we have always entertained a hope that he would yet find his home in Africa. Once settled a citizen of Liberia, and if we are not much mistaken in the man, he would make a mark in the history of that Republic that would not easily be effaced, and materially and favorably affect the destiny of thousands. We deeply regret that he was not led thither.

A FAIR PROPOSITION.

The following Resolution was passed at a Convention of the colored people of the State of New York, holden at Troy during the present month:

Resolved, That it is important that two sailing vessels, owned by the Grand Council of this State, be fitted out to reach the grievances of our deluded brethren who have emigrated to Africa or any other unhealthy clime, to give them an opportunity to return at any reasonable expense.

Now, as the building and sailing of a vessel is attended with no inconsiderable expense, and concluding, that one of those proposed, must be destined for Liberia;—to save money, that might be put to a better use, we make the following proposition, viz.-We will agree to furnish good cabin accommodations to any Agent of the Abolition Society, out to Liberia and home again to the United States, keeping him on board nights while on the coast, so that he will not be exposed to the fever, for the sum usually charged, viz., one hundred dollars for passage each way, and one hundred for the time on board on the coast, boat use, &c. &c. We will agree to afford him every facility for intercourse with the "deluded" and unhappy people on shore—to receive in boats and put on board all emigrants who may wish to leave Liberia, and bring them to a port in the United States, for the sum of forty dollars each for adults, and children at half-price, including food, water, and the customary conveniences of a steerage passage, payment to be made or guaranteed at the time of shipment as is customary. We stand ready to give sureties in any reasonable sum for the performance of our part of the contract, and to continue the same semi-annually so long as it shall be desired.

Now, my Abolition friends, if your talk about this matter means any thing, come forward and close the contract, or forever after hold your peace.

Colonization Office, Balto. Sept. 24th, 1855.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers
A. Maryland Colonization Journal

2. June 1841 (n.s. I, 1)--May 1861 (n.s. X, 24)